

# Fairfax County Community-wide Energy and Climate Action Plan (CECAP)

Task Force Meeting 4

Final Goal Setting

September 30, 2020

6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Held Electronically via WebEx



**Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination**

# Legal Requirements

At this time, we will be conducting the legal requirements that allow us to hold an electronic meeting during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The meeting is now being recorded.

# Welcome & Meeting Overview

Michelle Paul Heelan, ICF Facilitator



# Agenda

## **Welcome and Meeting Overview**

- Overview of Meeting Agenda and Outcomes

## **CECAP Process Update**

## **Administrative Items**

- Conduct Policy and Vote

## **Final Goal Setting Votes**

- Focus Group Liaisons Report
- Review Public Feedback
- Review Guidance on Interim & Sector Goals
- Facilitated Discussions & Votes on Goals

## **Break (5 minutes)**

## **Technology Presentations**

- Washington Gas Presentation - Renewable Natural Gas
- Covanta Presentation - Solid Waste
- Q&A

## **Wrap Up and Next Steps**

# Meeting Outcomes

- **Provide update** on status of CECAP process and administrative items
- **Review** public feedback from public meetings and community survey
- **Discuss and vote** on a long-term target goal and interim and sector-specific goals
- **Educate and discuss** technologies relevant to strategy selection (renewable natural gas and solid waste incineration)

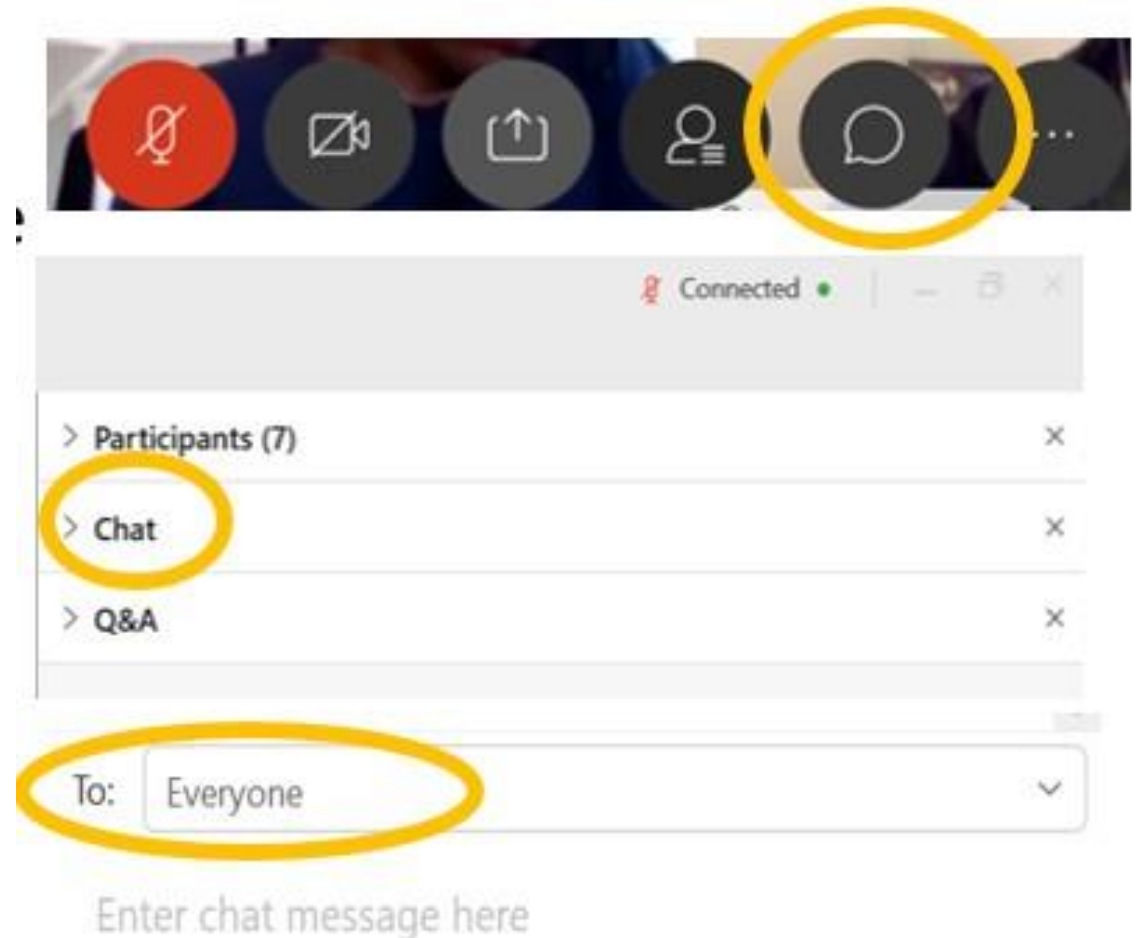
# How to Use the Chat Box

1. Hover over the middle of the screen and click on the speech bubble icon to activate the Chat Panel.

2. Select the arrow next to Chat.

3. Write your answer in the Chat and **send to Everyone**.

**Phone call-ins:** If you are calling in by phone, please unmute yourself and state your request to speak.



# How to Speak Up

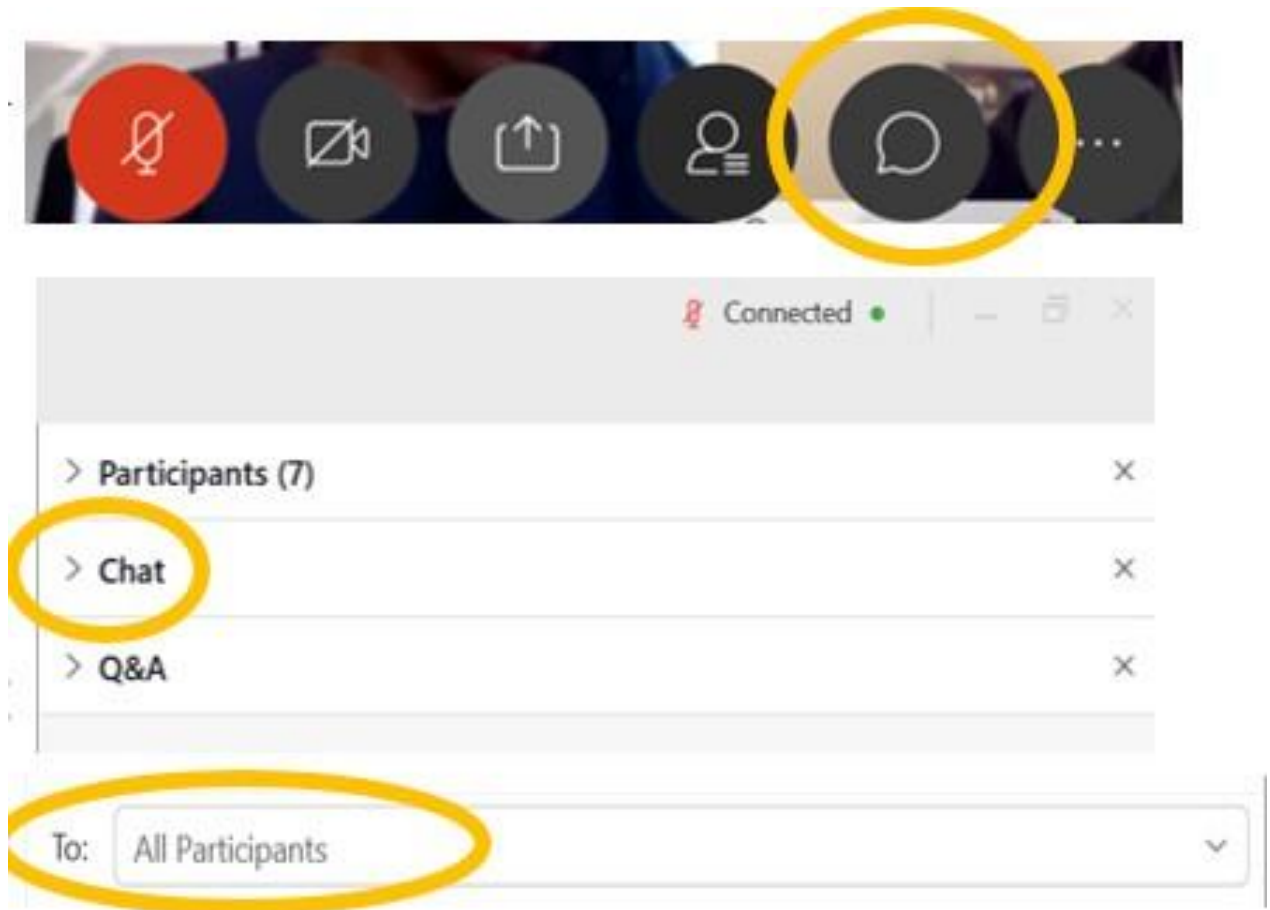
1. Hover over the middle of the screen and click on the speech bubble icon to activate the Chat Panel.

2. Select the arrow next to Chat.

3. Type “**SPEAK**” in the Chat box and **send to Everyone.**

4. The facilitator will call on you to speak.

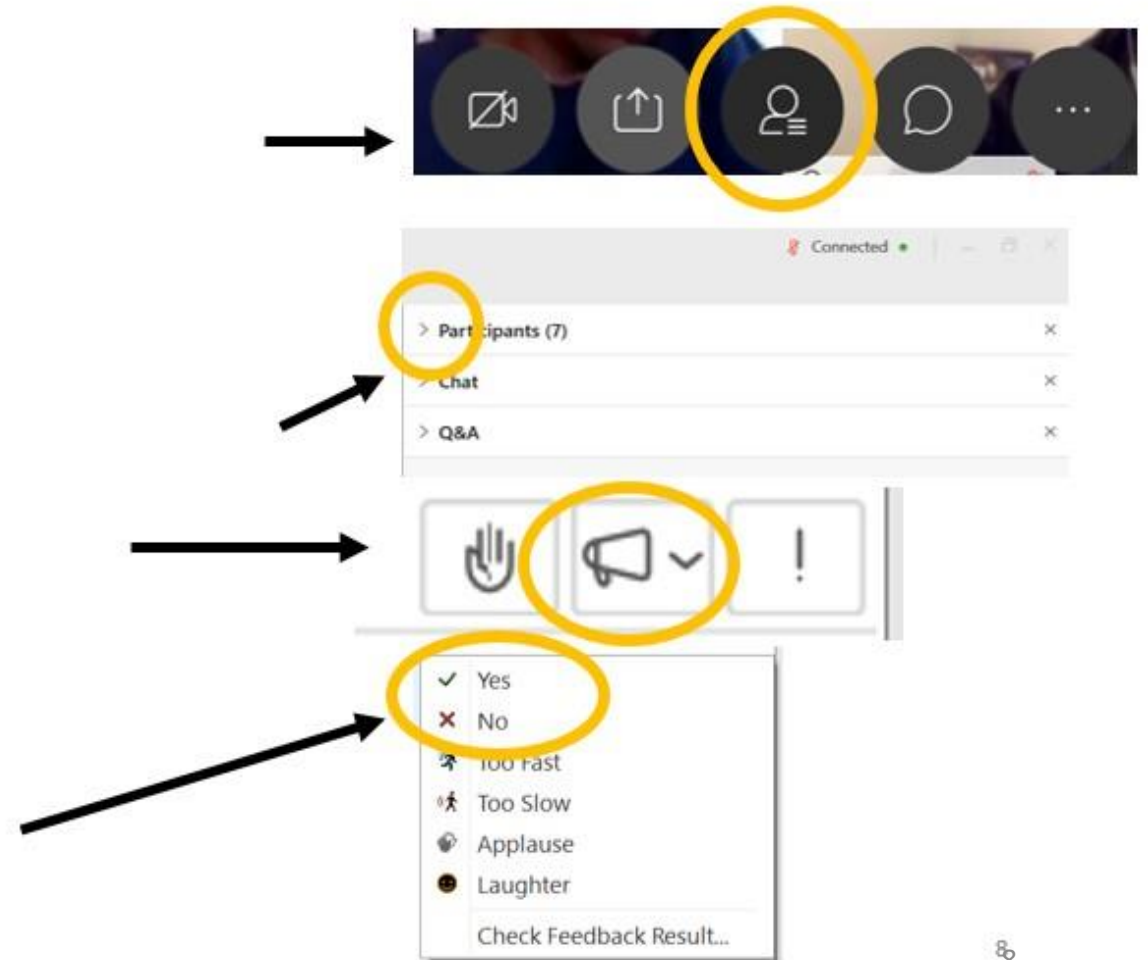
**Phone call-ins:** If you are calling in by phone, please unmute yourself and state your request to speak.



# How to Provide Yes/No Feedback in WebEx

For Yes/No feedback:

1. Hover over the middle of the screen and click on the person icon to activate the Participant Panel.
2. Select the arrow next to Participants.
3. Click on the megaphone in the bottom right corner of the Participant Panel.
4. Use the check and X icons.





# CECAP Process Update

Maya Dhavale, Fairfax County



# CECAP Process



# Timeline

Month	Milestones
January 2020	Task Force and Focus Group kickoff meetings
March 2020	Task Force meeting, focused on GHG inventory, GHG models & preliminary goal setting
July 2020	Task Force meeting, focused on setting goals for CECAP
August 2020	Public input on CECAP
September 2020	Task Force meeting, focusing on reviewing public input on goals, setting goals, and beginning to discuss strategies for meeting these goals
October 2020	Update Board of Supervisors (BOS)
November 2020	Task Force meeting, focusing on reviewing the draft list of strategies
December 2020	BOS update
January 2021	Task Force meeting, focusing on final list of strategies, and review of community outreach / implementation plan draft
February 2021	<b>Public input on CECAP</b> , Task Force meeting, focusing on finalizing community outreach / implementation plan
March 2021	Task Force meeting, focusing on finalizing community outreach / implementation plan
April 2021	BOS update Task Force meeting, focusing on review of materials produced to date / draft CECAP report
May 2021	Public input on draft CECAP
June 2021	Final Task Force meeting, focusing on reviewing public feedback and finalizing the CECAP report
July 2021	CECAP presented to BOS at committee meeting, with adoption of plan to follow

# Administrative Items

Maya Dhavale, Fairfax County



# Conduct Policy and Vote

- [Available on our website](#)
- Supplement to our [Operating Guidelines and Rules of Order](#)
- Need to be recognized by facilitator to speak
- Materials submitted need to be directly relevant to agenda items
- Decorum maintained to facilitate efficient and productive discussions without distractions

# Focus Group Liaisons Report

Maya Dhavale, Fairfax County



# Focus Group Liaisons Report Order

**1 minute** per Focus Group

- Braddock
- Dranesville
- Hunter Mill
- Mason
- Lee
- Mount Vernon
- Providence
- Springfield
- Sully

# Review Public Feedback

Maya Dhavale, Fairfax County





# Public Feedback - Goals

## Responses:

- 1957 responses to online survey, over 150 participants in the public meetings – very good response and lots to process

## Demographics:

- 97% residents of Fairfax County
- Split fairly evenly among Districts
- 92% do not own a business; 88% own a home in Fairfax
- Majority white (75%); majority over 55 (48%), majority female (54%); majority HH income over \$160k (30%)

# Public Feedback – Goals (cont.)

- Majority felt that the work we are doing is important and should be supported (including supporting work with tax dollars).
- Interest in carbon neutral as a goal, on down to less aggressive goals.
- Final target year support was mixed – some as soon as possible, others willing to go to 2050.
- Interim goal year support also mixed – support for a very soon interim goal (2025/2030) with some later (2035/2040).
- Sectors of interest were transportation (47%) and renewable energy (26%)

# Final Goal-Setting

Michelle Paul Heelan, ICF Facilitator  
Adam Agalloco, ICF

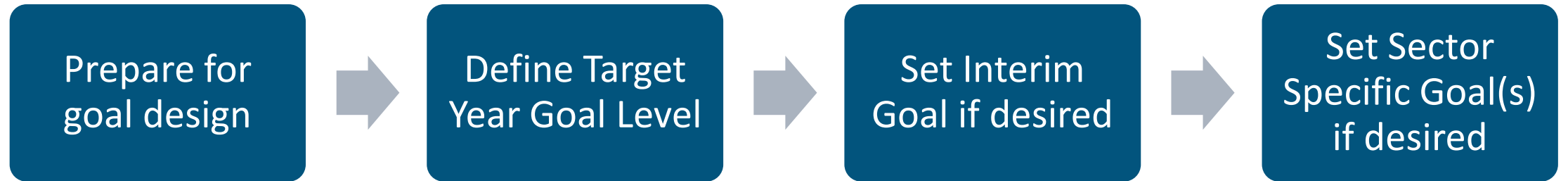


# Setting the Stage for Final Goal Setting Votes

- We are looking to *you* to set the goals.
- We are building on the conversation at the July meeting.
- Flexibility is key for coming to a decision.
- Votes are not binding. Remember: the Board of Supervisors makes the final call.
- Goals v. strategies
  - Goals guide strategies but are not the end all be all. Strategies that do not fit under goals will still be included in the CECAP.
- Keep in mind Dillon Rule v. Home Rule
  - Dillon Rule: If power not explicitly given to locality, the state retains that power.
  - MD & DC are Home Rule.

# Last Meeting's Process

These are the steps we'll use in designing a mitigation goal(s):



# Tentative Climate Goals

At the July 29 Task Force meeting, the Task Force discussion indicated a preference toward:

- A carbon neutral by 2050 long-term goal
- An interim year goal in 2025 or 2030
- Sector-specific goals for transportation and energy sectors

Recently, two Task Force members suggested: consideration of combined absolute reduction & carbon neutral long-term goal (e.g., At least an 85% reduction in emissions and carbon neutral overall).

# Terms for Goal Setting

- **Reduction goal/target goal/long term goal:** The emission reduction levels that a government or organization sets out to achieve by a specified time, or target year.\*
- **Interim goal:** A goal that provides a progress point for the long term goal and works to create accountability within the plan.
- **Sector-specific goal:** A goal set for sector-specific metrics that would contribute to the overall goal of reducing emissions and/or energy use.
- \*[C2ES US State GHG Emissions Targets.](#)

# Terms for Goal Setting (cont.)

- **Attainable goal:** There is a clear path outlined to achieving the goal.
- **Aspirational goal:** There is not a clear path outlined for meeting the goal.
- **Science-based goal:** A goal that is established by considering the level of decarbonization required to keep global temperatures below a specified increase (e.g., 2 degrees Celsius). By the Under2 Coalition's standards, an 80x50 goal that uses 1990 as a base year could be considered science-based.
- **Zero carbon:** No carbon emitted.
- **Carbon neutral/Net zero:** Refers to achieving a net zero carbon emissions goal by balancing carbon emitted with an equivalent amount offset through carbon credits (tradable credits that typically represents one ton of carbon dioxide equivalent).
- **Be deliberate and specific in how we use:**
  - Emissions, Energy and Electricity
  - Zero carbon, Carbon neutral (or Net Zero) and Renewable



# Climate Planning and Goal Setting in the Region

City/County	Long Term Goal	Interim Goal	Other Goals	Climate Action/Energy Plan
<b>Arlington County, VA</b>	2050 - Carbon neutral	NA – No interim year goal	2025 – 100% RE County Government 2035 – 100% RE Community	2019
<b>Albemarle County, VA</b>	2050 - Net zero	2030 - 45% from 2008 levels	Under development	Under development (Draft available)
<b>Alexandria, VA</b>	2050 - 80-100% from 2005 baseline	2030 – 50% from 2005 baseline	2023 – Net Zero Energy standards in new public buildings 2035 – 100% RE City Operations 2027 – 25% EVs for Municipal Fleet 2040 – 100% EVs for Municipal Fleet 2035 – 40% tree canopy	2019
<b>Washington, DC</b>	2050 - Carbon neutral	2032 – 50% below 2006 levels	2032 – 100% Renewable Energy 2045 – 100% Clean or Electric Public Transit	2018
<b>Frederick County</b>	2050 – Carbon neutral	2030 – 50% below 2010 levels	Under development	Under development
<b>Montgomery County, MD</b>	2035 - Carbon neutral	2027 – 80% below 2005 levels	2017 – 6 MW Solar County Government 2020 – Reduce Petroleum Consumption 20% County Government New County LEED Silver Buildings	Under development
<b>Prince George’s County, MD</b>	2050 - 80% from 2008 baseline	10% reduction in emissions every five years after 2010	2022 – 20% Renewable Energy County Government Various Energy Efficiency Goals	Under development for 2021
<b>MWCOG’s Regional Goal</b>	2050 – 80% from 2005 baseline	NA	NA	2017 <sup>25</sup>

# Final Review & Vote on a Long- Term Target Goal

Michelle Paul Heelan, ICF Facilitator



# Vote on Long-Term Climate Goal

At the July 29 Task Force meeting, the Task Force discussion indicated a preference toward:

- A carbon neutral by 2050 long-term goal

Recently, two Task Force members suggested: consideration of combined absolute reduction & carbon neutral long-term goal (e.g., At least an 85% reduction in emissions and carbon neutral overall).

# Interim Goal Setting

Adam Agalloco, ICF



# Things to consider when setting new goals.

## Goals should:

- Be easily and broadly understood by the public
- Support the target year goal
- Specific to Fairfax's priorities and Fairfax's ability to impact, but not limiting
- Focused on larger sectors (not strategies!)
- Measurable
- Attainable if in the short term

# Interim Goal

An **interim goal** provides a progress point for the long term goal and works to create accountability within the plan.

## Considerations for Interim Goals

- There will be regular GHG inventory updates to track progress regardless of their being an interim goal.
- There will be regular updates to the plan.
- Interim goals will stay in place unless replaced.
- Organizations typically have one interim goal throughout their planning process.

# July Task Force Meeting- Interim Goal Progress

At the July 29 meeting, the Task Force discussion indicated:

- The Task Force believes it is in the best interest to establish an interim goal or goals.
- The Task Force had the preference for a goal or goals focused in 2025 or 2030.

**2025-11 preferences**

**2030- 12 preferences**

2035- 2 preferences

In the Task Force meeting, several members asked ICF to prepare interim goal options that align with a 2050 carbon neutrality goal.

# 2025 or 2030?

- A 2025 interim goal presents a logistical challenge
  - The proposed CECAP adoption date (mid 2021), leaves 3.5 years after adoption and does not allow an appropriate window to measure progress due to data availability.
- Regular GHG inventories will be completed by COG to track progress
- Multiple interim goals can be confusing and overly prescriptive
- It is envisioned that CECAP will undergo regular updates



# Facilitated Discussion & Vote on Interim Goal Year

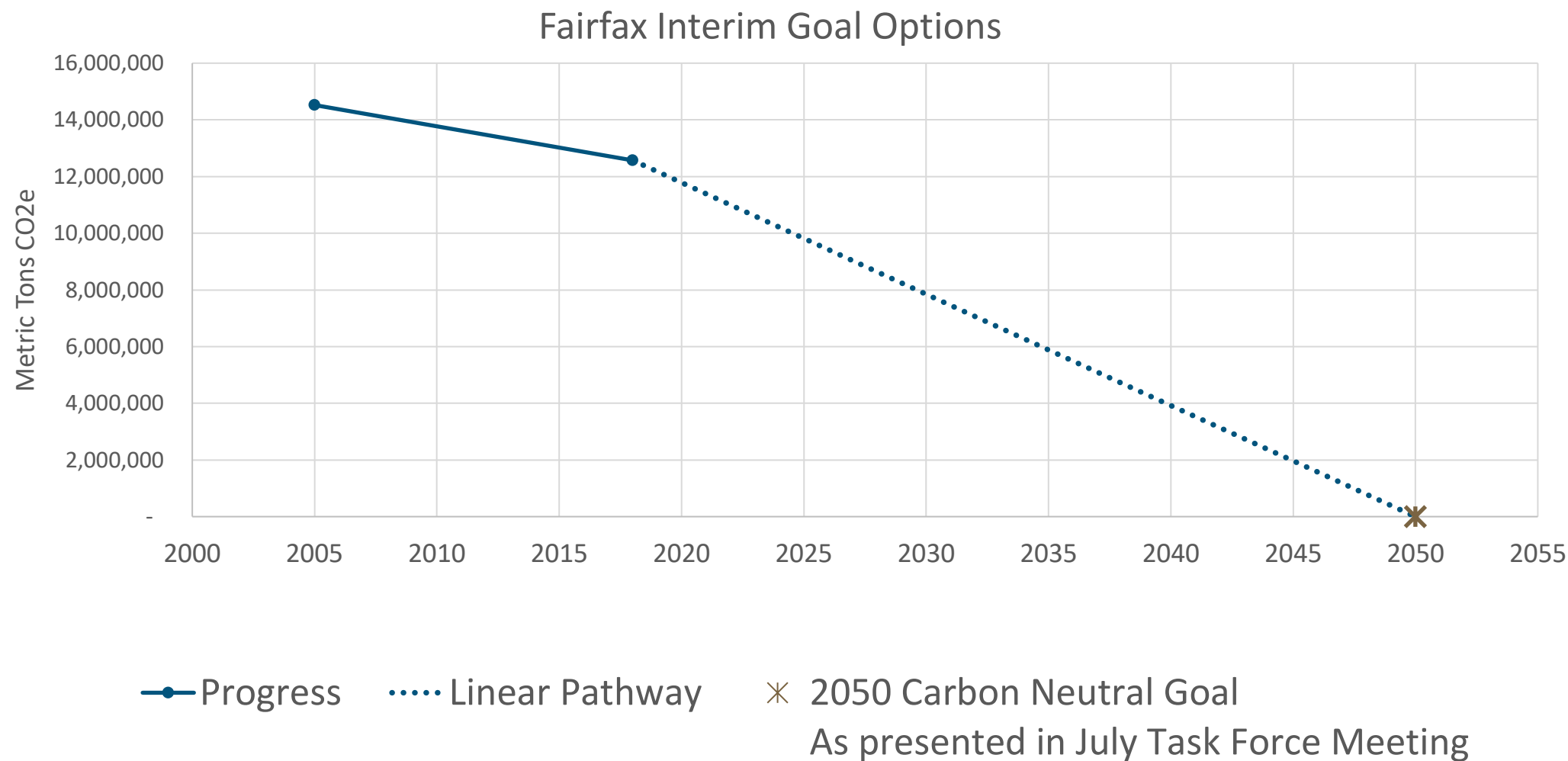
Michelle Paul Heelan, ICF Facilitator



# 2030 Options



# Interim Goal Options – 2030 – Graph I



# Interim Goal Options – 2030 Possible Options

## **2030 Goal- A:**

50% Reduction in Carbon Emissions by 2030 from a base year of 2005

## **2030 Goal-B:**

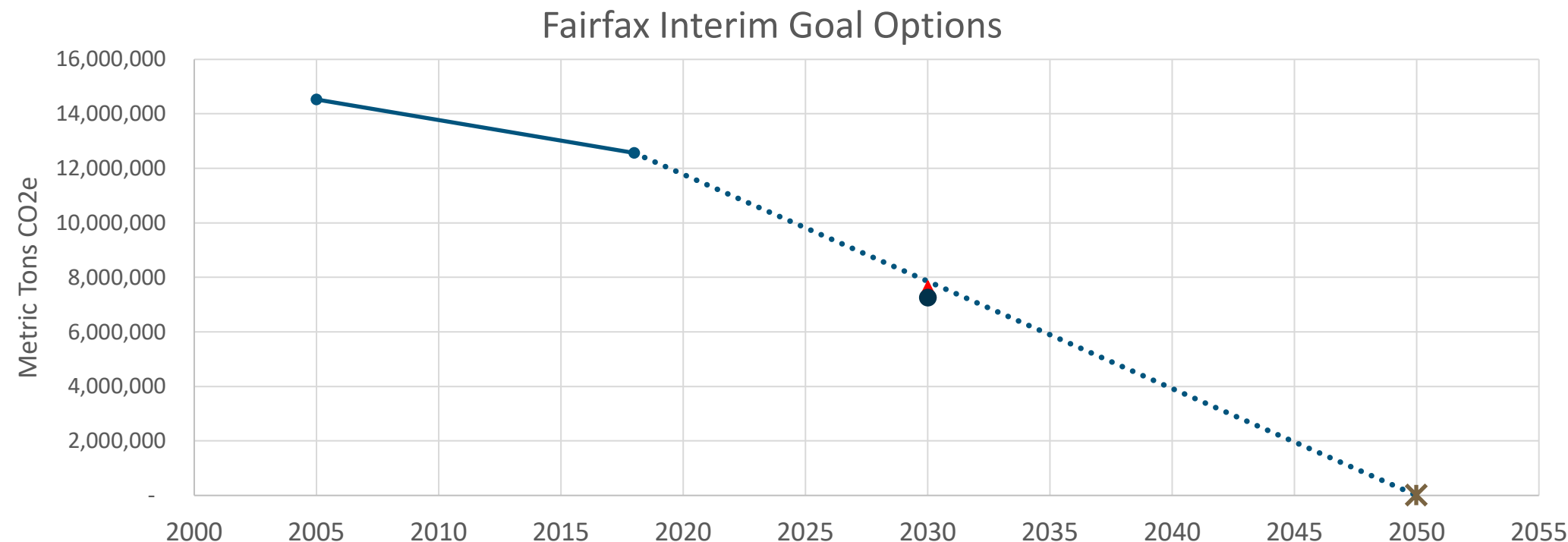
Above 50% Reduction in Carbon Emissions by 2030 from a base year of 2005

### **Why this goal:**

Exceeds IPCC 1.5 degree report, for global warming to be limited to 1.5 degrees C (45% reductions from 2010 levels by 2030)

Aligns with MWCOG's proposed regional goal

# Interim Goal Options – 2030 – Graph II



✕ 2050 Carbon Neutral Goal  
As presented in July Task Force Meeting

▲ IPCC 1.5 degrees alignment goal  
45% by 2030 from 2010 base year

● A- 50% Goal by 2030 from 2005

# Facilitated Discussion & Vote on Interim Goal Level

Michelle Paul Heelan, ICF Facilitator



Break  
5 minutes



# Technology Presentations

Michelle Paul Heelan, ICF Facilitator





# Renewable Natural Gas Presentation

Melissa Adams, Washington Gas



# Solid Waste Presentation

Mike Van Brunt, Covanta



# Q&A

Michelle Paul Heelan, ICF Facilitator



# Wrap-up and Next Steps

Michelle Paul Heelan, ICF Facilitator



# Review of Meeting Outcomes

- **Provided an update** on status of CECAP process and administrative items
- **Reviewed** public feedback from public meetings and community survey
- **Discussed and voted** on a long-term target goal (2050) and interim year goal (2030).
  - Long-term target goal: Carbon neutral with 87% reduction by 2050 from a 2005 base year
  - Interim year goal: 50% reduction by 2030 from a 2005 base year
- At the next meeting we will,
  - Discuss and vote on 2040 interim year goal level
  - Discuss and vote on sector-specific goals
  - Discuss strategies to reach goals
- **Educated and discussed** technologies relevant to strategy selection (renewable natural gas and solid waste incineration)

# Upcoming Dates

- **October 2020**

BOSEC meeting to discuss goals / work to date

- **November 2020**

Task Force meeting (Discuss strategies)

# Stay Informed

[CECAP Homepage](#)

[Office of Environmental & Energy Coordination \(OEEC\) Climate Action News Blog](#)

- **Twitter:** @ffxgreen / #ffxCECAP
- **Follow for updates on the CECAP process**, as well as information on climate and energy science, policy, and best practices.
- **Learn** about the topics and trends driving the climate conversation in Fairfax County.

# Thank You!

For further questions, please contact:

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